

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:  
a signal processor for receiving a signal to be processed, the signal processor comprising an information storage media player; and  
an information handling system for receiving an output signal provided by said signal processor the information storage media player, the output signal being a video signal that is representative of at least a portion of the input signal,  
wherein said information handling system provides a control signal to said signal processor and said signal processor encodes data onto the output signal in response to the control signal such that the encoded data is decodable by said information handling system;  
~~wherein the signal processor is an information storage media player which is capable of encoding the data onto a vertical blanking interval of the output signal, and~~  
wherein the information storage media player receives and decodes the control signal from the information handling system, and, in response thereto, encodes status data within a vertical blanking interval of the output signal, the encoded status data being decodable by the information handling system for acquiring the status of the information storage media player.
2. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, said signal processor including a data encoder for encoding the data onto the output signal, and said information handling system having a data decoder for decoding the data from the output signal received from said signal processor.

3. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, said information handling system having a transmitter for transmitting the control signal to said signal processor, and said signal processor having a receiver and decoder for receiving and decoding the control signal received from said information handling system.
4. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, said information handling system being capable of reproducing the output signal received from said signal processor.
5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, the signal to be processed and the output signal provided by said signal processor being video signals.
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, the output signal provided by said signal processor being an NTSC compliant video signal.
8. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, the output signal provided by said signal processor being an NTSC compliant video signal, the data being encoded onto the vertical blanking interval of the NTSC compliant video signal in compliance with an Electronic Industry Association standard.
9. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, the control signal being a wireless signal.
10. - 14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

transmitting a control signal to a signal processor from an information handling system that controls the signal processor, the signal processor comprising an information storage media player;

receiving and decoding the control signal;

providing a video signal from the signal processor to the information handling system; and

encoding data onto the provided output signal in response to the control signal;

~~wherein said signal processor is an information storage media player which is capable of encoding the data onto an available vertical blanking interval of the video signal~~

wherein the information storage media player receives and decodes the control signal from the information handling system, and, in response thereto, encodes status data within a vertical blanking interval of the output signal, the encoded status data being decodable by the information handling system for acquiring the status of the information storage media player.

16 (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising the step of decoding the data from the provided output signal.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, the data being indicative of a status of the signal processor.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

determining that the available vertical blanking interval is not available during a predetermined time after decoding the control signal; and

interleaving the data in a previously existing data packet.

20. (Currently Amended) A program of instructions storable on a computer readable medium for causing an information handling system to execute a series of steps, the steps comprising:

transmitting a control signal from an information handling system to a signal processor that the information handling system controls;

receiving and decoding the control signal;

providing an output signal from the signal processor to the information handling system; and

encoding data onto the output signal in response to the control signal;

wherein the output signal provided by said signal processor is a video signal and ~~and~~, the signal processor is comprises an information storage media player ~~which is~~ capable of encoding the data onto an available vertical blanking interval of the output signal, the information storage media player for receiving and decoding the control signal from the information handling system, and, in response thereto, encoding status data within a vertical blanking interval of the output signal, the encoded status data being decodable by the information handling system for acquiring the status of the information storage media player.

21. (Original) A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the steps further including the step of decoding the data from the output signal.

22. (Original) A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the data being indicative of a state of the signal processor.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Presented) A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the steps further comprising the steps of:

determining that the available vertical blanking interval is not available during a predetermined time after decoding the control signal; and interleaving the data in a previously existing data packet.

25. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information storage media player is a VCR player.
26. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information storage media player is a DVD player.
27. (Previously Presented) A convergence system capable of communicating state information using a vertical blanking interval of a video signal, comprising:
  - a computer system for controlling the convergence system;
  - a television monitor coupled to the computer system for displaying video images;
  - an information storage media player coupled to at least one of the computer system and the television monitor for receiving a storage medium containing video information stored thereon and providing an output video signal having a vertical blanking interval to at least one of the computer system and the television monitor; andwherein the information storage media player receives and decodes a control signal from the computer system and, in response thereto, encodes status data within the vertical blanking interval of the output video signal, the encoded status data being decodable by the computer system for acquiring the status of the information storage media player.
28. (Previously Presented) The convergence system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the information storage media player is capable of determining that an available vertical blanking interval is not available during a predetermined time

after decoding the control signal and interleaving the data in a previously existing data packet.

29. (Previously Presented) The convergence system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the status data includes recording, paused, playing back, and channel information.

30. (Previously Presented) The convergence system as claimed in claim 27, wherein information storage media player comprises at least one of a video cassette recorder (VCR), a DVD player, a DVD player and recorder and a video laser disc player.